

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 17 and 18, without prejudice.

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A game ball having increased resistance to moisture absorption comprising a natural leather cover disposed over a lining, the leather of said cover having increased water resistance properties distributed throughout during a tanning process, wherein when said ball is subjected to six 45 minute cycles of a rain test and said ball is permitted to dry at approximately 70°F for 24 hours between cycles, said ball contains an amount of water at the conclusion of each said rain test cycle as expressed as a ratio of the weight of the ball with absorbed water to the weight of the dry ball, an average per cycle ratio at the conclusion of said six rain test cycles being a maximum of 1.20:1.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled)

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled)

Claims 17-²⁰~~18~~ (Cancelled)